REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-24 are presently pending in the application. The Office Action Summary does not state what claims are pending in this application, but incorrectly states that claims 14-25 are allowed. Paragraph 10 on page 11 of the Office Action likewise incorrectly states that claims 14-25 are allowed. It is understood that claims 14-24 have been allowed. If this is incorrect, clarification is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 12 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claim 3 has been canceled in the interest of expediting prosecution.

Claims 1 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagano, U.S. Patent No. 5,687,003. Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, as applied to claims 1 and 4, in view of either Koji et al., JP08298601, or Murakami, JP401176119. Claims 5-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, as applied to claims 1 and 4, in view of Hasegawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,384,645. Claims 7, 9-11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, and Hasegawa et al., as applied to claims 5-6, in view of Nagai, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0010561. Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, and Hasegawa et al., and Nagai, as applied to claims 7, 9-11 and 13, in view of Kubo, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,639,626. Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, and Hasegawa et al., and Nagai, as applied to claims 7, 9-11 and 13, in view of Yoshihiro, JP 11-261871. Claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, as applied to claims 1 and 4, in view of Johnson et al., U.S. Patent

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No. 6,686,957.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to an image sensing apparatus which includes an image quality mode setting block for setting only one of a plurality of image quality modes; a solid state image sensing element for converting an optical image into an electric analog signal; and a single AD converter for converting the analog signal output from the solid state image sensing element into a single digital signal with a quantization bit count corresponding only to the one image quality mode set by the image quality mode setting block.

As recognized in the Office Action, Nagano teaches the use of two AD converters 51 and 42, and so requires a selector 53 to select the output from one of the two AD converters.

The invention of claim 1 thus provides an image sensing apparatus which is more economical than that of Nagano, both more economical to manufacture and more economical to operate, since less power is required.

It is accordingly submitted that claim 1 distinguishes patentably from Nagano, as do dependent claims 2-13.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-24, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or
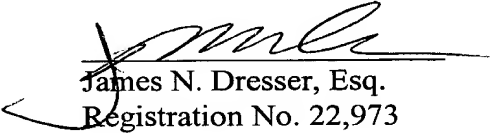
Serial No. 09/818,911
Docket No.: NE203-US
TAK.030

personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR

§1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including

extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account

No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: April 15, 2005

James N. Dresser, Esq.
Registration No. 22,973

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254